

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SY-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /071 W

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R 221213Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7944

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MORE BOMBINGS

REF: (A) LISBON 4734 (DTG 131311Z JUL 76),

(B) LISBON 4923 (DTG 210957Z JUL 76)

SUMMARY: TWO RECENT BOMBING INCIDENTS IN LISBON DIRECTED AGAINST TARGETS ASSOCIATED WITH ANGOLA AND MAZAMBIQUE WILL PLACE ADDITIONAL STRAINS ON GOP EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS FORMER COLONIES. END SUMMARY.

1. MORE BOMBINGS: TWO MORE BOMBINGS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS IN LISBON.

-- DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 22 AN EXPLOSION

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ROCKED THE DOWNTOWN OFFICES OF THE MOZAMBIQUE

AIRLINES DETA. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE BUT NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

-- NEAR MIDNIGHT JULY 20 A HIGH-POWERED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PARTIALLY DESTROYED THE "ANGOLA HOUSE," UNTIL RECENTLY THE MPLA HEADQUARTERS IN LISBON. AGAIN NO INJURIES.

2. SOARES CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS: PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE MARIO SOARES SPENT JULY 21 CONSULTING IN OPORTO. IN ADDITION TO COURTESY CALLS ON THE BISHOP AND RECUPERATING FORMER PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO AND NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO, SOARES MET SEPARATELY WITH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

-- LABOR: SOARES SPENT TWO HOURS IN A SHIRT-SLEEVES SESSION WITH 30 REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHERN TRADE UNIONS. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE UNIONS, MOST OF THEM PRO-SOCIALISTS, STATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO WORK WITH A SOARES GOVERNMENT.

-- MANAGEMENT: SOARES FOLLOWED-UP HIS TRADE UNION MEETING WITH A SESSION WITH 80 REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIAL CONFEDERATION (CIP). FOLLOWING THE MEETING, CIP PRESIDENT VASCO DE MELO SAID: "THE PRESENCE OF THE PS IN GOVERNMENT IS THE ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION AT THIS TIME TO ENSURE THE EQUILIBRIUM OF EXISTING FORCES."

3. COMMENT: THE TWO BOMBING INCIDENTS FOLLOW RECENT EFFORTS TO REPAIR STRAINED GOP RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. DESPITE THE RUPTURE IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, AND RPA DELEGATION WAS IN LISBON DURING THE PAST WEEK DISCUSSING WITH GOP OFFICIALS ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN CITIZENS (REF A). OUTGOING FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES ISSUED A STATEMENT JULY 20 APPEALING FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. SIMILARLY, THE RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TAP AND DETA SEEMED TO SIGNAL SOME IMPROVEMENT IN GOP-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS (REF B). THE BOMBINGS WILL PLACE ADDITIONAL STRAINS ON GOP EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEND RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO FORMER COLONIES.

4. FOR SOARES IT IS SO FAR SO GOOD. THE OPORTO MEETING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES IS A BREAKTHROUGH OF SORTS. IT PUBLICLY UNDERSCORES SOARES'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT PRIVATE SECTOR HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. CARLUCCI

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